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**From:** Kasman, Mark [Kasman.Mark@epa.gov]  
**Sent:** 10/20/2020 8:40:38 PM  
**To:** McIntosh, Chad [mcintosh.chad@epa.gov]; Nishida, Jane [Nishida.Jane@epa.gov]  
**CC:** Zimmer, Nathaniel [zimmer.nathaniel@epa.gov]; Dieu, Martin [Dieu.Martin@epa.gov]; Almodovar, Lisa [Almodovar.Lisa@epa.gov]; Finman, Hodayah [Finman.Hodayah@epa.gov]; Ferrante, Joe [Ferrante.Joe@epa.gov]; Chen, Team [chen.team@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** China "Fact Sheet on U.S. Environmental Damages"  
**Attachments:** 1 - US State Dept Fact Sheet on China's Environmental Abuses.docx; 2 - China's Fact Sheet on Envir Damage by US.docx; 3 -China's Report on US Environement Damage.docx

Chad,

On October 19, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China (MoFA) issued two reports criticizing the environmental record of the United States. We believe these reports are largely in response to President Trump's remarks at the 75<sup>th</sup> United Nations General Assembly on September 22, and an extensive fact sheet released by the State Department on September 25<sup>th</sup>. The President noted China's rampant environmental pollution and disregard for natural resource conservation. The State Department's Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs (OES) detailed environmental infractions made by China. To our knowledge this was not an interagency effort, and EPA was not notified by the DOS of the development and/or release of their fact sheet.

EPA/OITA contacted the China Desk at DOS and the U.S. Embassy in Beijing today following the release of the MoFA reports. We were informed that DOS/OES has drafted a press statement and will also brainstorm other options for responding to China, later this week. DOS/OES noted they will share the statement when appropriate. In addition, the U.S. Embassy is developing a cable on the reports and will circulate to the interagency by the end of this week.

Within the fact sheet written by China's MOFA, China alleges that U.S. EPA's recent amendments to regulations on methane leak management are a huge environmental hazard due to the strong effects of methane as a heat-trapping gas.

OITA has contacted the EPA Program Offices through their members of our Agency-wide China Team. The Program Offices have reviewed the reports and are prepared to provide support on a USG response, as needed.

I mentioned to Nate that it might be helpful to know whether the NSC has its own thoughts on if/how the U.S. will respond. Below are links to the referenced documents and a summary of China's "Fact Sheet on U.S. Environmental Damages" for your information.

Please let us know if you have any questions or would like additional information.

Mark

**Attachments:**

1. U.S. State Department's Fact Sheet on China's Environmental Abuses (source: <https://www.state.gov/chinas-environmental-abuses-fact-sheet/>)
2. China MOFA Fact Sheet on U.S. Environmental Damages (source: [https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa\\_eng/wjbxw/t1824980.shtml](https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/wjbxw/t1824980.shtml))
3. China MOFA Report on U.S. Environmental Damages (source: [https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa\\_eng/wjbxw/t1824979.shtml](https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/wjbxw/t1824979.shtml)).

**Fact Sheet Summary:** The MoFA fact sheet states that while the United States is the most advanced and developed country in the world, it alleges U.S. has poor environmental track record and has backtracked on domestic

environmental policies and undermined the effectiveness of global environmental governance. MoFA critiques the United States in 12 environmental and conservation areas, notably:

1. **Greenhouse Gas Emissions** – Points out that the U.S. is historically the world's largest emitter of the most GHG emission in cumulative terms. In per capita terms, the US has long been among the biggest carbon emitter, registering 14.6 tons of per capita CO2 emissions from fossil fuel in 2017, 3.3 times the global average and more than twice that of China.
2. **Climate Change** – Alleges recent actions as retrogressions on climate change, such as the scrapping of the Clean Power Plan, withdrawal from the Paris Agreement, and failure to ratify the Kyoto Protocol.
3. **Waste Management** – Mentions U.S. for not ratifying the *Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal* and being the world's largest exporter of solid waste and major consumer of plastic in per capita terms.
4. **Chemical Management** – Mentions the United States not ratifying three major international conventions: Basel Convention, Rotterdam Convention, and Stockholm Convention.
5. **Water Pollution** – China accuses the U.S. for poor management of water conservancy infrastructure, insufficient supply of cleaning drinking water, and having polluted water sources.
6. **Methane Leaks** – Accuses the U.S. for creating large quantities of methane gas leakages as a result of recent amendments to methane leak management regulations.

**Report Summary:** The MoFA report accuses the U.S. for having a poor track record of engaging and complying with multilateral environmental treaties, which has negatively affected global environmental governance. The report cited several examples and goes into detail on how the U.S. has hindered multilateral efforts for environmental protection.

Notable highlights of the report include:

1. Withdrawal from the Paris Agreement on climate change – Alleges that U.S. absence from the agreement weakens ambition and joint efforts of the international community to address climate change, especially given its role as one of the world's largest emitter of global carbon emissions.
2. Failing to fulfill international obligations – China accuses the U.S. for failing to meet its international commitments, especially with emission reductions and reporting obligations to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). In addition, it points to examples of the U.S. not meeting funding pledges to the Global Environment Facility and Green Climate Fund.
3. Frequent non-participation in environmental pacts – China points to numerous multilateral agreements that the U.S. has not ratified and accuses the U.S. of taking a unilateralist approach to evading restrictions from environmental treaties.
4. Disrupting international environmental cooperation – China alleges the U.S. has disrupted international environmental cooperation and acted as a trouble-maker in global environmental governance by breaking G20 consensus on climate change, impeding environmental projects in developing countries, and attempting to block global plastic waste management from the Basel Convention.

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**From:** Chen, Team <[chen.team@epa.gov](mailto:chen.team@epa.gov)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, October 20, 2020 3:54 PM

**To:** Ferrante, Joe <[Ferrante.Joe@epa.gov](mailto:Ferrante.Joe@epa.gov)>

**Subject:** REVIEW: Package & Summary of China Fact Sheet & Report

Hi Joe – See the cover email below + the three attachments.

Team

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On October 19, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China (MoFA) issued two reports criticizing the environmental record of the United States in response to President Trump's remarks at the 75<sup>th</sup> United Nations General

Assembly on September 22, which he noted China's rampant environmental pollution and disregard natural resource conservation. On September 25, the State Department Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs (OES) supported President Trump's remarks with an extensive fact sheet detailing environmental infractions made by China [**NOTE:** EPA was not notified by the DOS of the development and release of their fact sheet].

EPA/OITA contacted the China Desk at DOS and the U.S. Embassy in Beijing were informed that DOS/OES has drafted a press statement and will also brainstorm other response options later this week. DOS/OES noted they will share the statement when appropriate. In addition, the U.S. Embassy is developing a cable on the reports and will circulate to the interagency by the end of this week.

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